

V. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Agency responsibilities for implementation of the plan are itemized in this section. These actions are listed under the agency that has primary responsibility for each item. Implementation of these actions is subject to obtaining adequate funding and other agency priorities. These items are priority rated from high to low (1 = high, 4 = low).

A. ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT (DLWM)

1. DESIGNATE AND MODIFY SPECIAL USE AREAS

- | | Priority |
|---|----------|
| a. Wildlife Habitat. Designate the Bald Mountain Ridge critical tundra bird nesting area as a special use area according to guidelines in Chapter Four. | 1 |
| b. Non-Motorized Areas. Designate special use areas where motorized use is limited, as described in Chapter Four. These non-motorized areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Hatcher Pass Recreation Site.* Independence Subunit.* Reed Creek and Reed Lakes.* Upper Little Susitna Valley--as shown on Map 12 <u>in original plan</u>. | 1 |
| c. <u>Revise the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area to reflect the July 1989 amendment (Chapter 3, Recreation, C, 9 & 14; and Public Safety, 4) and as needed in the future to make necessary adjustments (Chapter 3: Recreation, C, 12 & 13; Transportation, C, 6. Chapter 4: Willow Mountain, D, 4; Baldy/Lucky Shot Ridge, 4, b; Hillside, E, 6, b & d).</u> | |

2. PREPARE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Recreation Use Areas. A cooperative agreement will be established between the Division of Land and Water Management and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation giving DOPOR authority to manage recreational use of the following subunits: | 1 |
|---|---|

- * Independence, Archangel, Reed Lakes, Government Peak and Little Susitna Subunits.

- b. **Federal Mining Claims.** The Division of Land and Water Management will prepare a cooperative management agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for implementation of the plan's surface use guidelines on federal mining claims to the extent possible. The agreement will also place a priority on conveying federal lands to the state when claims are abandoned.

1

3. DNR-DOPOR INTERAGENCY LAND MANAGEMENT ASSIGNMENTS:

DLWM will issue an interagency land management assignment (ILMA) to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for management of the following recreation sites:

(1) Hatcher Pass Recreation Site - 360 acres

1

This site is a popular scenic viewing and recreational use area which requires special management to protect and enhance these qualities. It includes Hatcher Pass, Summit Lake, and the April Bowl telemarking area. Parking, picnic facilities, hardened trails, and a viewing area are proposed.

(2) Independence Mine State Historic Park Addition - 530 Acres

1

The plan proposes adding the eastern portion of the Independence Bowl valley floor to the existing Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. It would incorporate historic sites related to Independence Mine State Historic Park which currently are not within the park boundaries and allow for similar management of the valley which is becoming a popular visitor/tourist destination point.

This is an intensively used recreation area for cross-country skiing, telemarking, hiking, and scenic driving. Including the entire valley floor in the legislatively-designated area would give recognition to its outstanding scenic and public use values. Access for mining through the park addition would be allowed.

(3) Lucky Shot Ridge Campground - 300 Acres

4

A campground on the bluff overlooking Willow Creek is proposed to provide a developed recreation site west of Hatcher Pass for fishermen, hunters and summer visitors.

Priority

(4) Other developed recreation sites as necessary.

3

4. MINERAL CLOSING ORDERS*

1

Prepare mineral closing orders for the following areas as outlined in Chapter IV and illustrated on map 11 in original plan.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
* Lucky Shot Ridge Campground	300
* Hatcher Pass State Recreation Site	360
* Addition to Independence Mine State Historic Park	530
* Reed Valley/Lakes	1,952
* Hatcher Pass Road corridor from Archangel turn-off to the Pass	1,085
* Potential Alpine Ski Area (with a 10-year sunset clause if development is not initiated within that time).	2,150
* Material sites identified by DOT/PF for future development based on field testing and site analysis. (These will be no more than 40 acres each and for developed sites only for the life of the extraction site.)	40 [±]

5 RECLASSIFICATION*

1

- a. **Prepare** classification orders to reflect the changes in and classification as a result of the management plan.
- b. **Remove MLLO.** Remove the mineral leasehold location order (MLLO) classification which currently exists for over 1/2 of the management unit.

*These actions will occur at the same time and are scheduled for Commissioner signing shortly after the plan is approved by the Commissioner.

6. INSTREAM FLOW RESERVATIONS.

3

Work with ADF&G to reserve instream flow reservations for the Little Susitna River and Willow Creek.

7. ADJUDICATE LAND USE APPLICATIONS

1

DLWM will adjudicate the pending land use applications for grazing, communication sites, and recreational development based on plan guidelines and land use allocations.

8. ALPINE SKI AREA

1

- a. **Feasibility study.** DLWM will coordinate with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in completion of the feasibility study for the proposed ski area.
- b. **Procedures for Ski Area Development.** DLWM will consult with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on the most appropriate procedures to be used in enabling private sector development of the ski area.
- c. **Solicit Proposals.** Within one year of plan completion, DLWM and/or the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will solicit proposals for alpine ski development at the Government Peak site.
- d. **Public Meetings.** Public meetings on the findings and proposed development will be conducted in the Matanuska Valley and in Anchorage by DLWM to allow the public an opportunity to comment on future development of the site.
- e. **Interagency Review Process.** Establish and implement an interagency, technical, and citizen committee review process for ski area development as outlined in Government Peak Subunit Guideline 4k(4).
- f. **Budget, Resort Development, and Management.** Following are estimates of funding requirements to support the agency review, analysis, and management of a four-season ski resort development process.

(1) Environmental Studies:

<u>(a) Fish and wildlife studies (Project Evaluation 404-410)</u>	<u>\$132,679, Year 1</u>
	<u>42,439, Year 2</u>
<u>(b) Vegetation study (Project Evaluation 403)</u>	<u>12,300, Year 1</u>
<u>(c) Water quantity and quality data collection</u>	<u>12,600, Year 1</u>

Priority

(Project Evaluation 401-402; Government Peak, E, 11, g-h) \$ 5,000. Year 2

5,000. Year 3

(2) Technical Advice:

Consultants with ski resort planning and development, engineering or other appropriate technical skills to act as advisors to DNR during the various stages of ski resort development;

<u>(a) Solicitation, lease auction</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<u>(b) Concept development plan stage</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<u>(c) Master development plan stage</u>	<u>50,000</u>

(3) Agency Expertise:

Funding for resource service agreements for technical assistance by agencies such as Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation/Design and Construction, Institute of Social and Economic Research, USDA Soil Conservation Service, and other necessary and appropriate state and federal agencies.

Estimated funding, total for three years planning and development \$0,000

Guideline that applies for Technical Advice and Agency Expertise is Government Peak E, 4K(4).

(4) Lease administrator, Range 18, position

50,000

9. RESOLVE ACCESS PROBLEMS

2

DLWM will research access problems in key areas and assert rights-of-way on existing roads and trails if there is no feasible alternative and the action is determined to be in the state's best interest.

10. IDENTIFY PRIVATE/PUBLIC LAND BOUNDARY

2

Where public sites or trails are planned adjacent to private land, such as the Little Susitna bridge and Fern Mine areas, ensure that such facilities are located on public land by identifying the boundary between the public and private land.

11. MANAGEMENT OF ORV USE

- a. **Monitoring Program.** A program to monitor the effects of off-road vehicle use on wetlands and alpine and subalpine tundra should be established in key use areas and the appropriate management techniques applied if needed to prevent erosion, degradation of alpine vegetation, or wetlands. 2
- b. **Designated Motorized Trails.** Work with users, ADF&G and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to designate map and sign motorized trails. 1
- c. **Coordination.** DLWM will coordinate with ADF&G in possible future establishment of special use areas for seasonal restrictions on motorized uses in critical moose wintering habitat areas or tundra nesting bird concentration areas based on ADF&G research and recommendations. 2
- d. **Trail Repair.** In the two key ORV access areas in the Willow Mountain Subunit, DLWM will consult with users and ADF&G and utilize correctional facility labor to do minimal repairs necessary as described in Chapter Four. 1

12. GRAZING MANAGEMENT

- a. **Monitoring.** Coordinate with Division of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, ADF&G, and the leaseholder in implementation of annual monitoring of forage and range utilization. Stocking rates and range management practices will be adjusted accordingly. 1
- b. **Research.** Act as a clearinghouse and coordinator in research on wildlife/cattle interaction, forage utilization, and its application to grazing leases. 3
- c. **Existing Grazing Leases.** Work with lessees and the Division of Agriculture to revise leases to reflect usable grazing resources and plan management guidelines. The areas included in the leases should be reduced to the areas identified by Soil Conservation Service as having moderate to high value grass resources at the time of lease renewal or earlier if the lessees agree. 2

Priority

13. MINING SURFACE USE

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| a. | Review Mining Plans and Annual Placer Mining Applications for consistency with plan guidelines. | 1 |
| b. | Unauthorized Structures. Continue enforcement action for unauthorized structures on mining claims. | 1 |
| c. | Monitor mineral leases and surface use on claims. | 2 |
| d. | Information. Make available to mine developers information on visual siting considerations for structures and access roads. | 3 |
| e. | On-Site Consultation. When possible, provide a pre-development, on-site consultation with mine developers and the Division of Mining and Geology. | 2 |

14. RECREATION

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| a. | Trails. Coordinate with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, ADF&G, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Trails Committee, and user groups to locate and design the proposed trails.

Organize volunteers and/or correctional center labor to do trail construction and maintenance. | 2 |
| b. | Signs. Contract for design and construction of information, interpretative, and designated use areas signs. Research low-cost alternatives for construction. | 1 |
| c. | Parking, Pullouts, Public Facilities. Coordinate with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in siting and authorization of facilities. Prepare Capital Improvement Project budget. | 1 |
| d. | Public Use Cabins. Determine the status of existing unauthorized cabins and which ones are appropriate for conversion to public use. Work with recreational groups in converting existing cabins or constructing new ones according to plan guidelines. Consult with ADF&G on location of cabins. | 3 |

Priority

- e. **Historical Sites.** Coordinate with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and knowledgeable citizens to identify historical sites, and plan for their protection and interpretative use. 4
- f. **Coordinated Budget Process.** Establish a coordinated budget process with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for capital improvements and management of the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area (Chapter 3, Recreation, C 6 f).
- g. **Coordinate with Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in development of regulations for recreation management in the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area (Chapter 3, Recreation, C 6 g).**

15. UNAUTHORIZED USE

- Initiate action to remedy unauthorized use cases and follow through with pending cases. 2

16. FORESTRY

- Review** and approve the Division of Forestry timber harvest schedules and access proposals. Coordinate harvest schedules and methods with ADF&G. 1

17. COORDINATION WITH ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

- a. **Enhancement Assessment.** Coordinate with ADF&G in evaluation of moose browse enhancement effectiveness in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range prior to initiating projects in the Hatcher Pass Management Unit. 3
- b. **Recreation-Wildlife Interaction.** Coordinate with ADF&G in assessing recreational development impacts to fish and wildlife and in minimizing or mitigating these impacts. 3
- c. **Grazing-Wildlife Interaction.** Coordinate continuing assessment of grazing-wildlife interaction with ADF&G. 3

- d. **Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Planning.** Work with ADF&G to seek funding for fish and wildlife habitat studies as part of planning to mitigate negative effects of ski area resort development. Estimated contribution from existing budget: \$43,267 through CDP phase; additional funding needed: \$139,863 through CDP phase.
- e. **Identify Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Sites.** Make lands available for habitat enhancement and pursue funding options to implement (Government Peak, E 9 C).
- f. **Wildlife Management in Ski Resort.** Coordinate with ADF&G and the ski resort developer in wildlife management within the resort; e.g., wildlife viewing plan , public education, greenbelts, minimizing encounters with large mammals (Government Peak E 9 e-v).

18. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SAFETY

- a. **Guidebook to Hatcher Pass.** Prepare text and oversee design and layout of the guidebook. The guidebook will include natural history and mining history information and provide the user with a road tour keyed to interpretative signs, information on the plan, information on miners' rights, and public rights of access. It will include a map showing trails and private property areas. 2

Coordinate with ADF&G and locally knowledgeable citizens on identifying wildlife viewing opportunities and incorporate the information into the guidebook and sign system.

Explore the possibility of having the guidebook published through the Alaska Natural History Association. Set up distribution and sales of the guidebook.
- b. **Non-Motorized Use Areas.** Identify non-motorized use areas with signs. 1
- c. **Interpretative Sign Program.** Establish an interpretative sign program at key points in the road corridor keyed to the Guidebook. 3
- d. **Avalanche Information Signs.** Establish information signs at winter parking areas on avalanche safety. 1
- e. **Public Presentation.** Make public presentations on the management plan, public safety, development projects, resource use, and volunteer opportunities. 2

Priority

- f. **Information Pamphlet.** Prepare an information pamphlet for miners illustrating visual techniques for siting mine structures, access roads, and habitat restoration techniques. The purpose is to assist miners in developing claims with a minimum of visual impacts. 2
- g. **Initiate Public Safety Coordination** for emergency rescue and avalanche safety with private sector and agencies. 2

19. ECOLOGICAL RESERVES SUITABILITY.

- Contact the Alaska Ecological Reserves Coordinator for possible identification of sites suitable for inclusion in the system (see Chapter 3, page 142). 4

B. DNR -- DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE (DOA)

1. MONITOR FORAGE UTILIZATION AND RANGE USE

- Coordinate with the Soil Conservation Service, DLWM, ADF&G, and the lessee in applying monitoring data to adjust stocking rates and range management practices. 1

2. RESEARCH

- Coordinate with ADF&G, DLWM, University of Alaska Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, and the Soil Conservation Service in design and analysis of range research projects which are outlined in Chapter Three. 1

3. RANGE ENHANCEMENT.

- Evaluate potential for range enhancement through timber harvest or alder removal. Make recommendations to lessee and DLWM for implementation of appropriate techniques. This must be reviewed by the Division of Forestry, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and ADF&G. 3

Coordinate range use with browse enhancement projects where appropriate.

C. DNR -- DIVISION OF FORESTRY (DOF)

1. COORDINATION

Coordinate timber harvest and access plans in Hillside with recreational plans and wildlife habitat management.

1

2. TIMBER HARVEST AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Work cooperatively with ADF&G and University of Alaska to research and develop improved methods for wildlife habitat enhancement through timber harvest. Apply these methods in forest management practices.

3

Perform regeneration surveys on all harvest and enhancement areas. Evaluate the regeneration success.

Investigate and take action on timber trespass (poaching).

D. DNR -- DIVISION OF MINING [AND GEOLOGY]

1. REVIEW

Review interagency comments on mining plans and leases and provide for implementation of surface use guidelines through stipulations in Miscellaneous Land Use Permit, and leases.

1

Priority

2. INSPECTION

Perform field inspections on existing mining locations in the management unit to determine if surface uses are consistent with state regulations and Miscellaneous Land Use Permits or lease stipulations.

1

3. CONSULTATION

Provide pre-development, on-site consultation where possible in coordination with DLWM.

2

4. INFORMATION

Make information available to miners on siting of structures and access roads.

2

5. DATA COLLECTION

a. **Water Quality.** Establish annual water quality sampling in mineral production areas.

2

b. **Snow Surveys.** Continue snow surveys; add 2-3 additional sites in the proposed Government Peak ski area, if budget allows.

1

c. **Hydrologic Data.** Collect hydrologic data for the alpine ski area site.

1

d. **Wind Data.** Collect wind data for alpine ski site, if funding is available.

2

E. DNR -- DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION (DOPOR)

1. REVIEW

a. **Enhancement.** Review ADF&G and/or the Division of Forestry habitat enhancement and timber harvest schedules to analyze effects on scenic values and recreational use and make appropriate recommendations.

1

	Priority
b. Mining and Material Sites. Review mining plans of operations to assist in location of public access, relocation of trails as necessary, and maintenance of scenic values.	1
c. Grazing. Review grazing management plans for compatibility with recreational use, location of fences, and maintenance of public access.	1
2. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS/COORDINATION	
Develop cooperative management agreements with Division of Land and Water Management for management of recreational use east of the Hatcher Pass as outlined in Section V, 2a of this chapter. Coordinate with the Division of Land and Water Management in authorization of recreational developments.	1
3. LEGISLATIVE DESIGNATIONS	
Work with DLWM in establishment of these designations for land management as outlined in Section A, Item Number 3 of this chapter.	1
4. ILMA'S/RECREATION SITES	
Work with the DLWM to develop interagency land management agreements for recreation sites.	1
5. SITE PLANS	
a. Government Peak Area. Prepare a detailed site plan of the trails and private/public sector recreational developments proposed for the intense use areas within this subunit.	1
b. Hatcher Pass Recreation Site. Prepare a site plan with phased improvements. The first priority is site protection.	2
c. Parking. Do on-site analysis and design of parking areas.	1

6. PERSONNEL

Add a new ranger position for on-the-ground management of recreational use east of the Hatcher Pass when funding is available. This is a high priority item.

1

7. TRAIL SYSTEMS

Coordinate with the private sector, DLWM, ADF&G, and the Mat-Su Borough in design and development of track ski systems, public trails, and other special use trail systems.

2

8. HISTORICAL SITES

Identify sites and plan for protection, interpretation, and identify possibilities for restoration. Utilize volunteers to assist in the effort to gain local knowledge and to extend the use of limited funds.

3

9. PUBLIC SAFETY

Coordinate with the Department of Public Safety, DLWM, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and the private sector in improvement of search and rescue capability and other public safety factors.

2

10. CAMPGROUND AND PICNIC AREA LOCATIONS

Identify the best sites for the proposed campgrounds and picnic areas and coordinate with DLWM to reserve the site for future development by placing a mineral closing order on the site. Do site development plans and capital projects budgeting.

4

11. JOINT BUDGET PROCESS FOR SPECIAL USE AREA.

Coordinate with Division of Land and Water Management and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in development of a coordinated budget process for capital improvements and management of the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area (Chapter 3, Recreation, C 6 f).

12. PREPARE REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USE AREA.

Prepare regulations for management of the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area in coordination with the Division of Land and Water Management.

13. MONITOR PUBLIC USE

Monitor public use, preferences, and conflicts as a database for future adjustments to Hatcher Pass Special Use Area requirements (Chapter 3: Recreation, C 14).

14. COORDINATE WITH SKI RESORT DEVELOPER

Coordinate with the ski resort developer on trails system design and location, public safety, and other items related to public recreational use of the ski resort area (Government Peak, E 3 n--recreational development guidelines).

F. ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (ADF&G)

1. ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES, EXISTING BUDGET

- a. **Moose Browse Enhancement.** Assess the forest types and moose productivity to determine areas where enhancement is appropriate. Prepare an enhancement plan in coordination with DNR.

Utilize analysis of effectiveness of enhancement projects conducted in the Moose Range in designing Hatcher Pass enhancement projects.

- b. **Game Board Coordination.** Work with the Game Board to determine types of hunts which will provide opportunities to utilize fish and wildlife or view wildlife in the management unit.
- c. **Livestock Fencing Requirements.** Apply existing research and available literature on types of livestock fencing to grazing lease areas.
- d. **Review:**

Mining. Continue to review mining plans. Make recommendations on rehabilitation of placer mines for fish and wildlife habitat. Prepare recommendations for mitigation of wildlife impacts for mineral leases.

Access. Review right-of-way applications for mining and forestry access and recreational trails and provide recommendations on design which will facilitate wildlife management or minimize negative impacts.

Land use applications. Review recreational development, gravel site, grazing, and forestry applications.

2. NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, PROPOSED BUDGET

- a. Identify **brown and black bear** populations, identify specific conflicts with proposed grazing and recreational uses and make recommendations for mitigation of identified conflicts.

Continue studies on **moose** utilization of the western portions of the management unit, determine if a conflict exists with snowmachine use and make recommendations for mitigation of identified conflicts.

Identify extent and importance of **nesting concentrations of tundra birds** on Bald Mountain Ridge and other areas. Make recommendations for boundaries of special use area and/or other necessary management practices.

Identify important **caribou habitat** areas.

Cost estimate for above studies: \$20,000

- b. **Wildlife Viewing.** Identify opportunities for wildlife viewing both on the road system and away from high use areas. Coordinate with DNR to incorporate this information into the proposed **Guide to Hatcher Pass**. Estimated cost: \$5,000.
- c. **Placer Mine Rehabilitation.** Assist mine operators in applying known rehabilitation methods to mined areas.
- d. **Grazing research.** Participate in design of grazing research projects with DNR, the Soil Conservation Service, and the University of Alaska Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. Initiate moose habitat utilization and forage preferences research in key areas. Coordinate with DNR in applying this data to development of state-of-the-art grazing management. See cost estimates on page 274.
- e. **Instream Flow Reservations.** Initiate stream flow research for the Little Susitna River and Willow Creek to allow for establishment of instream flow reservation for fish and wildlife. Estimated cost: \$5,000.

f. **Vegetation Model.**

The ADF&G, in cooperation with DNR, will prepare a vegetation model depicting potential moose forage production for the vegetation types occurring in selected portions of the Hatcher Pass Management Area based on a vegetation analysis and field vegetation verification conducted by the Soil Conservation Service in 1985-86 if funding is available. Estimated Cost: \$16,000.

g. **Ski Resort Development.**

Coordinate and participate with DNR and the ski resort developer in conducting necessary fish and wildlife habitat studies, mitigation planning, and management of wildlife in the resort area.